

Recommendations and Problems

Monthly Reports for August 1959

MAP LIBRARY DIVISION

None reported.

CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION

The most pressing problem facing the Division is the lack of drafting capabilities to keep current on the City Plan program. Despite the detailing of one person from the Lab Section to the Drafting Section, it has been unable to keep current on the program and a buildup of compilation over drafting has occurred. At present there are 10 maps in drafting, 2 in final check, 3 in D/GC, and 4 being compiled.

USSR-SATELLITES COMPILATION BRANCH

Working-level communications with OBI has been a continuing problem in D/GC. The difficulty results from the multiplicity of contacts in D/GC required of OBI. OBI maintains scheduling liaison with both the Division office and the Chapter II NIS Coordinator, but there is no real liaison between OBI and the four Branches in D/GC at the working level. As a result, the occasional communication between OBI and any of the four branches occurs only after some problem or disagreement has arisen over a specific project. This is not only too late for effective coordination, but also whatever communication or understanding is effected by the resolution of each such problem is usually not communicated to the other branches. Thus each contributing branch probably has a different understanding of current OBI requirements.

Further, the NIS has been steadily improving as the result of constructive efforts in both areas. This, however, has resulted not from regular communications between the areas but as the result of sporadic counter-proposals arising in either area. Too often a change in approach within OBI catches D/GC flat-footed, whereas any change in approach affecting the preparation of graphics for the NIS should be clearly understood in D/GC. Any wrangling between the areas is deplorable and is usually expensive when extensive modifications must be made in plate separation after a map has been drafted and proofed. Part of the difficulty here also rests on D/GC's reliance on written agreements, which are usually out of date by the time the agreements are circulated to the pertinent components.

The only way in which a continuing and comprehensive program like the NIS can be kept running smoothly is by continuous working-level communication. Considering the organization of OBI, the most likely way that the above-mentioned problems can be minimized is for D/GC to have a working-level coordinator to look after these problems. The chief of one of the four branches involved (the 3 compilation branches and GC/C) would be the best level of person for this. This person would be mighty busy at first but once closer coordination were attained this additional assignment should not be too onerous for one of the branch chiefs. He would be expected to initiate discussions with OBI when that seemed necessary from D/GC's interest as well as to keep in close enough contact with OBI to be aware of changes in policy as they occurred.

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CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION (Cont'd)DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION BRANCH

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During the month of August, several direct contacts were made between [REDACTED] office in FE and GC/C for the preparation of special material for both training and operations. It became apparent, after accepting several jobs from D/GG which were destined for the same office, that there is still a need for better liaison and closer coordination of requests placed on the Area by FE. D/GC and D/GG are working on parallel tracks on many projects which should be worked in closer coordination. It is suggested that steps be taken to alleviate this problem to some lost motion, duplication, and to achieve a better end product.

GEOGRAPHY DIVISION

The Special Research Staff's concern, as reported last month, regarding the Bureau of the Budget's failure to keep the Agency informed about a proposal for the reassignment of responsibilities for U.S. Antarctic operations had further attention during August. In talks with Mr. Jasper it was found that it is Bureau policy to include in meetings only those agencies whose functions would be altered, Defense and National Science Foundation. (State was included because of the political implications.) CIA will have an opportunity to express its opinion of the proposal when it is considered at the Planning Board level. However, this ignores Agency interests in the one aspect that questions need for the continuation of the Working Group on Antarctica.

A question arises as to whether D/GG should review all DD/I-produced NIS sections having substantial geographic content. While ERA has asked D/GG to review its own contributions, and accepts our suggestions, they do not have the responsibility for requesting geographic review of material produced by other components of DD/I and USIB and coordinated by ERA.

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Some [REDACTED] photography was requested on an East German GM site but channels for receiving photography are so clogged that three weeks later it has not been received. This will continue to be a problem, especially for popular and recent items like coverage of GM sites and ports.

NEAR EAST/AFRICA BRANCH

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[REDACTED] will end his summer tour of duty with the Agency on 4 Sep. He has done excellent work on a tedious and demanding project on Kurdish peoples. [REDACTED] will also have to drop this project to produce the GG/N contribution to Ch. IX Egypt. This comes at a time when the project, now consisting of 2500 5x8 cards, is beginning to crystallize into the writing stage.

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GEOGRAPHY DIVISION

NEAR EAST/AFRICA BRANCH (Cont'd)

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Including [REDACTED] time, 43% of the total possible Branch working hours were spent on annual leave, and production has fallen off accordingly.

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The planned utilization of a major portion of [REDACTED] time over the next three months for research on the Caribbean will help to satisfy a DDP request. . . (but will) delay or cancel two articles, and permit only minimum preparation for his trip to Africa.

SPECIAL RESEARCH BRANCH 25X1A9a

25X1A9a This past month D/GL combined their requirements with an extensive list prepared by [REDACTED] for levying by OO on a US contact going to Europe to a geodetic meeting. On issuance of the requirement it was noted that both the originator and drafter of the combined requirement was [REDACTED] while D/GG is merely identified as involved in coordination. This, we feel, substantially misrepresents the facts and obscures the separation of interests between D/GL and D/GG. Moreover, it is likely to generate confusion among the collectors as to the identity of the interested parties in a specific requirement. As a result this can frustrate the most direct contact possible between collector and substantive analyst. As has happened in the past particularly on technical subjects, collectors need to get detailed clarification and answers to questions that arise in the course of an operation. Without adequate identification of the true originator, such contact is likely to be frustrated or misdirected.

EDITING AND REVIEW STAFF

The only current problems are those of completing the integration of the GG/R Staff into St/PB and the standardization of Geography Division Reports to agree in form with those of the Economics Area.

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